

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Brifcani et al.

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned** Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **herewith** Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **Can End And Method For Fixing The Same To A Can Body**

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EL568093945US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 18, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the specification:

Please add the following text after the title:

This is a continuation of United States Patent Application Number 09/650,664, filed August 30, 2000, which is a continuation of United States Patent Application Number 09/552,668, filed April 19, 2000, which is a continuation of United States Patent Application Number 09/945,698, filed November 21, 1997, which issued May 23, 2000 as U. S. Patent 6,065,634, which is the U. S. National Phase of PCT GB96/00709, which claims priority to UK9510515.1

Please add the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A can end comprising a peripheral cover hook, a chuck wall dependent from a first point on the interior of the cover hook, an outwardly concave annular reinforcing bead extending radially inwards from a second point on the interior of the chuck wall, and a central panel supported by an inner portion of the reinforcing bead, characterized in that, a line connecting the first point and the second point is inclined to an axis perpendicular to the exterior of the central panel at an angle between 30° and 60°.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 4 – 7 and 9 as follows:

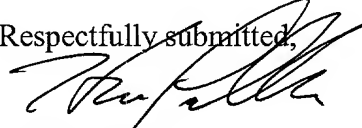
4. (Amended) A can end according to claim 1 characterised in that an outer wall of the reinforcing bead is included to a line perpendicular to the central panel (26) of the can end at an angle between -15° and $+15^{\circ}$ and the height h: of the outer wall is up to 2.5mm.
5. (Amended) A can end according to claim 1 characterised in that the reinforcing bead has an inner portion parallel to an outer portion joined by said concave radius.
6. (Amended) A can end according to claim 1 characterised in that the ratio of the diameter of the central panel to the diameter of the peripheral curl is 80% or less.
7. (Amended) An can end according to claim 1 characterised in that it is made of a laminate of thermoplastic polymer film and a sheet aluminium alloy or tinplate or electrochrome coated steel.
9. (Amended) A method of forming a double seam between a can body (12) and a can end (22), said method comprising the steps of: -

placing a curl (23) of the can end on a flange (11) of a can body supported on a base plate (4) ; locating a chuck (30) within the chuck wall (24) of the can end, said chuck having a frustoconical drive surface (32) of substantially equal slope B° to that of the chuck wall of the can end and a substantially cylindrical portion (33) extending away from the drive surface; causing relative motion and a first operation seaming roll (34) to form a first operation seam, and thereafter causing relative motion as between the first operation seam and second operation roll (38) to complete a double seam, during these seaming operations the chuck wall (24) of the can end becoming bent to contact the cylindrical portion (33) of the chuck.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit this preliminary amendment to remove multiple dependencies from the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Harold Fullmer
Reg. No. 42,560

Date: *Dec 18, 2001*

WOODCOCK WASHBURN
One Liberty Place – 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-3100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

4. (Amended) A can end according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 characterised in that an outer wall of the reinforcing bead is included to a line perpendicular to the central panel (26) of the can end at an angle between -15° and $+15^{\circ}$ and the height h: of the outer wall is up to 2.5mm.

5. (Amended) A can end according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 characterised in that the reinforcing bead has an inner portion parallel to an outer portion joined by said concave radius.

6. (Amended) A can end according to [any preceding] claim 1 characterised in that the ratio of the diameter of the central panel to the diameter of the peripheral curl is 80% or less.

7. (Amended) An can end according to [any preceding] claim 1 characterised in that it is made of a laminate of thermoplastic polymer film and a sheet aluminium alloy or tinplate or electrochrome coated steel.

9. (Amended) A method of forming a double seam between a can body (12) and a can end (22) [according to any preceding claim], said method comprising the steps of: -

placing [the] a curl (23) of the can end on a flange (11) of a can body supported on a base plate (4) ; locating a chuck (30) within the chuck wall (24) of the can end, said chuck having a frustoconical drive surface (32) of substantially equal slope B° to that of the chuck wall of the can end and a substantially cylindrical portion (33) extending away from the drive surface; causing relative motion and a first operation seaming roll (34) to form a first operation seam, and thereafter causing relative motion as between the first operation seam and second operation roll (38) to complete a double seam, during these seaming operations the chuck wall (24) of the can end becoming bent to contact the cylindrical portion (33) of the chuck.

An Abstract has been added